

The

# Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION  
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New U.S. Total: 132,287,450 Members

## Membership Rises In Religious Bodies

NEW YORK (RNS) — A slight increase in the total membership of religious bodies in the United States, countering a trend of recent years, is reported in the 1976 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.

Figures in the Yearbook, which is published by Abingdon Press, show 132,287,450 persons as members of 223 religious bodies last year. The total represents a gain of 1,042,311, or 0.8 per cent over the previous year.

Groups included in the total include Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Protestant bodies and some that would be considered "cults and sects." Some groups that may be considered quasi-religious, such as the Church of Satan and the Unification Church, are not listed.

According to the 1976 Yearbook, the percentage of the U.S. population holding formal membership in Churches increased from 61.9 in 1974 to 62.3 in 1975.

In a number of cases, more recent figures have already out-

dated those in the volume, which are largely based on 1974 and 1975 compilations. Despite this problem, however, the annual survey is the only comprehensive source on American religious membership. Trends can be plotted from the data even if individual totals are outdated.

Mr. Jacquet has repeated the warning he issues every year about drawing hasty conclusions about comparative church growth, since church statisticians use different categories. He pointed out, for example, that the Roman Catholic Church counts children as members while many Protestant groups counts only confirmed persons as members, and Jewish groups estimate their numbers in terms of communities.

According to Mr. Jacquet, "only on an individual denomination-by-denomination basis can losses and gains be accurately reported."

Although conservative denominations still show membership growth overall, a trend toward membership losses among some large Protestant groups that are considered theologically liberal seems to have leveled off.

Most of the growth reported in the 1976 Yearbook is found in the Roman Catholic Church (up 0.40 per cent to 48,701,885), Southern (Continued on page 2)

evangelism committee chairman.

All expenses of the meeting are to be borne by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This will include travel, motel, and meals, Vaughn said.

This will be the first meeting of this type in Mississippi, but it is on the calendar as an annual event in the future, he indicated. He added that he hoped if there are associations that do not have (Continued on page 2)

## Associational Planning Workshop Set May 18

An associational planning workshop for directors of associational missions and 10 members of leadership teams in each association will be held May 18 at Alta Woods Baptist Church in Jackson.

The meeting will provide the platform for launching the Mississippi Plan for Associational Advance and will have a two-fold purpose, additionally, according to Chester Vaughn, program director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"The meeting will provide an overview of the suggested program for churches as projected by our denomination," Vaughn said. "Time will be given to help association leaders understand what the suggestions are for churches," he added.

The second phase of the purpose will be to "make associational leaders aware of some possible associational projects they may wish to consider in planning an associational calendar to assist the churches."

The meeting will get under way at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m.

In addition to the director of missions, the 10 associational leaders being invited to the meeting include the moderator, the associational clerk, the associational Sunday School director, the associational Church Training director, the associational church music director, the associational Woman's Missionary Union director, the associational Brotherhood director, the associational missions committee chairman, the associational stewardship committee chairman, and the associational

president for administrative affairs there.

O. Norman Shands, who had been serving as acting dean of student affairs, was named chaplain of the seminary by the trustees.

Allen W. Graves, executive director of the seminary's Ministry Training Center, will resume the (Continued on page 2)

## Former Mississippians Named To Southern Faculty Posts

LOUISVILLE (BP) — Naming of a provost, two new deans, and five new faculty members were among decisions made by the trustees of Southern Seminary in their April meeting on the Louisville campus.

Roy Lee Honeycutt, Jr., dean of the School of Theology at Southern Seminary since August, 1975, was elected provost. The provost is the seminary's chief academic officer. The Mississippi native also serves as professor of Old Testament interpretation.

Southern Seminary's trustees have named Arthur L. Walker, Jr., professor of religion and philosophy at Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., as dean of student affairs. Walker, who was visiting professor of church history at the seminary last fall, has been on the Samford faculty since 1966, and is former vice-

president for administrative affairs there.

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## Spiritual Retreat Scheduled For Baptist Building

A spiritual retreat at the Baptist Building in Jackson is scheduled for Thursday and Friday of this week. Personalities will include Tom Ellif of Tulsa, Okla., and Ron and Patricia Owen, internationally known music artists.

The retreat was to begin at noon on Thursday with a covered dish luncheon for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board staff. Another session of the retreat was planned for 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Baptist Building for the staff.

At 7:30 p.m. in the chapel at the Baptist Building a continuation of the retreat will be open for all members of church staff in the surrounding associations who would be interested in attending.

The regular chapel program on Friday will be a part of the retreat. It will end at 10 p.m. All offices of the Baptist Building will be closed during all sessions of the retreat.

The Monday through Saturday (Continued on page 2)

## "MB" Mothers, Babies Get Mother's Day Tour

All "MB Babies" and "MB Moms" are invited to a special event in Jackson May 9 — and some of the "Babies" will be older than some of the "Moms."

The occasion is National Hospital Week, and officials at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center want everyone born there since its inception in 1911 to visit and tour the center that day.

Since National Hospital Week always begins on Mother's Day,

Moms who delivered at Mississippi Baptist also are invited to tour the 600-bed building which opened February 1.

The Sunday tours (lasting less than an hour) run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and are open to the public as well as to "MB Moms" and "MB Babies." Also open to the public are additional tours the remainder of the week.

The Monday through Saturday (Continued on page 2)

ing needs.

CHRISTIAN HOME WEEK (May 2-9, 1976) is the Convention-sanctioned period of mission emphasis upon the work of The Village and MOTHER'S DAY (May 9, 1976) is the date suggested to local churches by the Convention as an appropriate time for church-wide offering appeals designated for the needs of boys and girls who are Village wards. The Administration at the child care agency has again pointed out that

the MOTHER'S DAY offering is the only appeal for designated cash gifts which The Village addresses to churches, organizations, groups, throughout the year.

Reports released to THE BAPTIST RECORD during the current year have reflected a continued expansion and refinement of the services and ministries being offered by Mississippi Baptists through The Children's Village. Choral groups from the Department of Mu-



The Scope Convention Center is shown in the upper center of this photo of Norfolk. The Southern Baptist Convention will meet here June 15-17.

## William Carey Acquires Gulf Coast Property

President J. Ralph Noonkester of William Carey College and Dr. Bruce Aultman, president of the Board of Trustees have announced jointly that on April 26 of this year, the college entered into contract to purchase the Gulf Coast Military Academy campus at Gulfport.

The twenty-acre property is located at 1856 Beach Drive fronting highway 90 and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The facilities are being transferred officially to William Carey College on June 1, 1976 by Colonel C. M. Holt, sole owner.

The newly acquired campus consists of four major buildings, three frame houses, a swimming pool, and additional storage buildings,

according to a spokesman for the college.

The present William Carey College Gulf Coast academic program will be transferred to the new Gulf Coast campus with the beginning of the fall semester, August 29.

During the summer months, June 15 - August 15, the facility is

being offered as a retreat and conference center to Mississippi Baptist churches in light of the fact that Gulfshore Baptist Assembly is not yet available.

Contacts for use of the new Carey College campus during this summer may be directed to the business manager of the college in Hattiesburg.

## Happening' For Singles To Be Held On Gulf Coast

Dr. John Traylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Gulfport, and the Rev. Harold Bergen, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville will be the worship leaders for the Gulf Coast Happening for Christian Singles — formerly marrieds, career and college — May 28-30. The "happening" will be held at the Gulfport campus

of Mississippi at Long Beach. It is co-sponsored by the Sunday Scho-

sis in the general session on "Learning to Love — Or Again." Marvin Graham, president, Mt. Olive Bank, Mt. Olive, and chairman of the Christian Action Commission, will lead a seminar on (Continued on page 3)



## Mississippi Coordinators Told For Service Corps

ATLANTA, GA. — In preparation for volunteer involvement in Bold Mission Thrust efforts, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has named state coordinators for the Christian Service Corps.

Bold Mission Thrust is a special emphasis the objectives of which are to let every person in our land have an opportunity to hear and accept the gospel of Jesus Christ and to share in the witness and ministry of a New Testament fellowship of believers.

Christian Service Corps, a volunteer arm of the HMB, provides mission opportunities for persons willing to give from two weeks to a year. CSC workers serve without pay and provide their own transportation to the field.

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## Directors Of Missions Plan Kosciusko Meeting

The Mississippi Conference of Directors of Missions will hold the annual spring meeting in Kosciusko on Friday and Saturday, May 7-8. The banquet on Friday night will feature a mini-concert by Gary Anglin, minister of music at Alta Woods Church in Jackson, and a message by Dr. Lloyd Corder of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Georgia.

A business session will be held during the breakfast meeting on Saturday morning. Following a tour of Central Hills Baptist Retreat property, the group will hear a message by Dr. Harold T. Kitchens, pastor of First Baptist Church, Kosciusko, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Dr. W. Levan Moore, director of missions for the Attala Baptist Association, is president of the state-wide Conference of Directors of Missions and will preside over the meeting. Approximately seventy people are expected to attend.

(Continued on page 2)

Revised 'Living  
Bible' To Be  
Published In '77

CINCINNATI (RNS) — A "thorough revision" of the best-selling Scripture paraphrase, "The Living Bible," will go on sale next year, according to its original

(Continued on page 2)

and inspire in church and church-related appearances every week at some place of worship in Mississippi. The Village's ministry of therapeutic music, initiated in June of 1961 has been cited again and again as the outstanding ministry of music in Southern Baptist child care, and perhaps unique among child care agencies of any type in America.

The Department of Activities on the Jackson campus was twice commended through its director,

John L. Self, during the current year as one of the better examples of constructive use of leisure time through recreation, athletics and related activities in the Southeastern and Southwestern areas of the United States. In February, Mr. Self was honored and featured for his work at The Children's Village at the Annual Convention of Child Care Executives of Southern Baptists.

The Department of Character and Career Development which

commenced its work on The Village's Jackson campus on September 1, 1976, has already been widely acclaimed by church and convention leaders in Mississippi as a pioneer effort, among children's homes in moral and character development and spiritual enrichment of the lives of individual children in care. Under the leadership of Mrs. Annette Hitt, department director, substantial progress has been reported in

(Continued on page 3)

## Village Appeals For Generous Mother's Day Offering

# Religious Membership Rises

(Continued from page 1) Baptist Convention (up 1.77 per cent to 12,513,378), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon), (up 21.54 per cent to 2,683,573), Assemblies of God (up 5.27 per cent to 1,239,197), and Jehovah's Witnesses (up 14.69 per cent to 539,262).

Mr. Jacquet has compiled a 34-year survey of membership data for 31 U.S. denominations which shows membership strength remaining fairly constant if not ac-

ually increasing as compared with a 50 per cent rise in U.S. population during the period (1940-74).

Denominations which increased faster than the U.S. population during this period included the Southern Baptist Convention, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Reformed Church in America, Presbyterian Church, U. S. (Southern), and Roman Catholic Church.

A Gallup Poll cited in the Yearbook indicates that some 40 per

cent of U.S. adults attend a church or synagogue in an average week. The figure has remained constant from 1971 to 1974.

Other attendance breakdowns have remained essentially the same, the Yearbook reports. More women attend church than men (44 and 35 per cent), and slightly more non-whites than whites (41 and 39 per cent).

A total of 473,841 clergy serve the 223 U.S. denominations report-

## "Career Information Center" To Be Open During National Hospital Week

Young people interested in careers related to hospitals and health care will have an opportunity to learn about that subject during National Hospital Week May 9-15 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

A "Career Information Center" will be in operation in the medical center's main lobby throughout the week, staffed by center personnel able and willing to answer questions about hospital career opportunities.

The center offers schools and educational programs in affiliation with many educational institutions for nursing, medical technology, radiological technology and respiratory therapy.

The center operates its own School of Medical Technology, in affiliation with Mississippi College and Mississippi State University. Seniors of those two institutions who meet academic requirements may apply.

Those accepted take a twelve-month course of study starting July 1, and graduates are eligible to take the national examination certifying them as medical technologists.

## Southern Baptist Growth In Chicago Is Cited

CHICAGO (RNS) — Reports here indicate that the Southern Baptist Convention has become one of the fastest-growing church bodies in the Chicago area. It is also socially and racially diverse.

Rev. Dale Cross, director of the Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association, said Southern Baptist membership in Cook and Du Page Counties stands at 17,000 in 95 congregations — up from the 1957 figure of 800 in 11 congregations. Baptist Church formation began here about 1955.

Among the 95 churches are 14 predominantly black and eight Spanish-speaking congregations, Cross said.

There are six foreign-language congregations—including a Rumanian, Polish, Arab, Asian Indian, French-Haitian, and what Mr. Cross described as the only Assyrian Baptist Church in the U.S.

The Southern Baptist home mission board has set the goal of doubling its membership in seven midwestern states by 1980. Mr. Cross said five new congregations are expected to be launched in the Chicago area by the end of 1976.

The Mississippi Baptist Medical Center is affiliated with the Mississippi College School of Nursing as a location for in-hospital work done by MC students working toward Registered Nurse status.

And the medical center is affiliated with Hinds Junior College through classes in radiology, respiratory therapy and a program for students working toward a career as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

Coordinating the "Career Information Center" at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center during the

week will be Miss Kathy Bearden, career consultant and Baptist Student Union director for MBMC.

The BSU program at the medical center includes worship, prayer, recreation, a student annual, and the annual "Student Night" program, with all activities open to all denominations.

Serving a shorts and hostesses during the week will be winners of recent "Student Night" events, including "Mrs. MBMC" and "Mr. MBMC" winners Susan Pennington and Jim Harris, both of Mississippi College.

## 'MB' Mothers, Babies Invited For Mother's Day Tour

(Continued from page 1) day tours May 10-15 are scheduled from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and again from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Groups of more than ten should notify the medical center office in advance (Phone 988-5130).

Ladies of the MBMC Auxiliary will serve refreshments between tours and will staff the play room in the lobby where children may be left by those making the tours.

A colored-slide presentation of medical center scenes will be shown in the lobby for those making the tours and for those who may want to visit the medical center but do not choose to tour.

Paul J. Pryor, executive director of the medical center, said an exhibit featuring photographs of medical center personnel and facilities will be on view in the lobby during National Hospital Week.

Among hosts and hostesses during the week will be "Mrs. MBMC" and "Mr. MBMC" — Mrs. Susan Pennington and Jim Harris — students in MBMC-affiliated educational programs, who won those titles in a recent "Student Night" competition.

## Revised 'Living Bible' To Be Published In 1977

(Continued from page 1) tor, Dr. Kenneth Taylor.

The president of Tyndale House Publishers, which was founded in 1971 to distribute the paraphrase, reported on the planned revision at a dinner of United Methodist Men of the Cincinnati District.

Dr. Taylor said three problems with the current version have led to the revision — literary style, possible in inaccuracies, and the "frankness that there is in the original" Hebrew, which he tried to reflect in The Living Bible.

The Living Bible has sold some 18 million copies and returned more than \$15 million in royalties in the past five years to the Tyndale House Foundation for use in mission work.

Among other things, the money has been used to translate the book into 100 foreign languages.

Tyndale House has come a long way since it was founded in 1971 by Dr. Taylor. It now has 150 employees and 250 titles in its catalogue, and issues 30 new books a year.

## Children's Village Appeals For Generous Mother's Day Offering

(Continued from page 1) teaching Village children "the worthwhileness of human nature from a moral and spiritual base."

In late 1975, the Trustees and Administration of The Baptist Children's Village announced occupation by Village children and personnel of cottage facilities constructed expressly for Village use in Tate County, near Independence, on lands contributed by Mrs. Ada Farrow of Bett to Farrow Manor, Inc., a private, non-profit corporation which constructed the cottage buildings and released them, free of any rental, to The Children's Village, for use by The Village in the operation, at Village expense, of a branch children's home campus in a rural setting.

It has been reported that "Farrow Manor Campus" as the branch Village installation has come to be known, is already "home" to about 36 people and Village officials assert that the long-envisioned dream of a "country-life campus" which will enable Mississippi Baptists more effectively to serve the needs of

boys and girls who are more comfortable in rural surroundings is now being realized.

Village authorities have again explained that although The Baptist Children's Village, leases, rent-free, and does not own the land and buildings on its Farrow Manor Campus; The Children's Village is responsible for all of the costs and expenses necessary or in any manner related to the care of the children and the operation of the campus, and that the Farrow Manor Campus is a Children's Village operation and a d

With the continued successful operation of The Village's group care or "satellite home" in New Albany and The Village's own organized system of foster homes, it has been pointed out that Mississippi Baptists now offer four different major custodial services to orphans and dependent children.

According to Paul N. Nunnery, Village superintendent, the Convention's child care agency is presently extending care and services to more boys and girls than

ever in its recorded history, with the addition of the branch, Farrow Manor Campus. Nunnery pointed out that many of the improvements and extensions effected in the quality of services and ministries offered at The Children's Village had been accomplished almost concurrently with expansion into branch campus facilities, and the expense incurred by The Village in furnishing the new cottages at its Farrow Manor branch.

The price of progress and the cost of improvement and expansion have been particularly high during these past two years, as all of us have continued to experience inflation to a degree we did not and could not expect. Nunnery commented, "and only a generous Mother's Day offering — the largest in our history — will enable us to preserve and maintain the forward steps recently made in Christian child care. For the children, we beg a special interest in your mission giving at this special season reserved by our Convention to and for them."

According to Paul N. Nunnery, Village superintendent, the Convention's child care agency is presently extending care and services to more boys and girls than

ed in the Yearbook. Of that number, 264,084 serve as parish pastors, with the remaining number retired or serving in non-parish situations.

A record-breaking per capita rate of \$116.77 is reported in the 1976 Yearbook for 1974 contributions by church members in 44 bodies. But high rates of inflation prevented the figure from overcoming the 11 per cent drop in purchasing power of the dollar that year.

Total congregational contributions were \$4.20 billion in 1974, up about \$311 million from the previous year. Benevolence giving was \$107 billion, and represented about 20.3 per cent of total contributions.

Figures indicated that a decreased membership is continuing to give more money in most major Protestant denominations.

Combined membership of 10 of the largest total 27,443,000 — 1.3 per cent lower than in previous years — but the combined total of income from contributions showed a 7.7 per cent increase.

Another report in the 1976 Yearbook shows that Jewish, Catholic and Protestant groups received some \$14 billion in income in 1972. The figures were part of a study conducted in 1975 for the Commission on Private Philanthropy.

According to the study, most Catholic gifts (90.1 per cent) are less than \$500, while 80 per cent of Jewish gifts and 62 per cent of Protestant gifts are in this category. But in the upper levels of giving, donations of more than \$1,000 made up 1.9 per cent of Catholic, 5 per cent of Jewish, and 16 per cent of Protestant contributions.

Another trend that was reversed in 1974 was a decline in church building, according to the 1976 Yearbook. It reports that the dollar value of new construction of religious buildings rose from \$814 million to \$974 million in 1974.

In the peak year for new construction of church buildings — 1965 — the total value was \$1,207,000,000. Membership in some of the larger religious bodies also hit a high mark in that year.



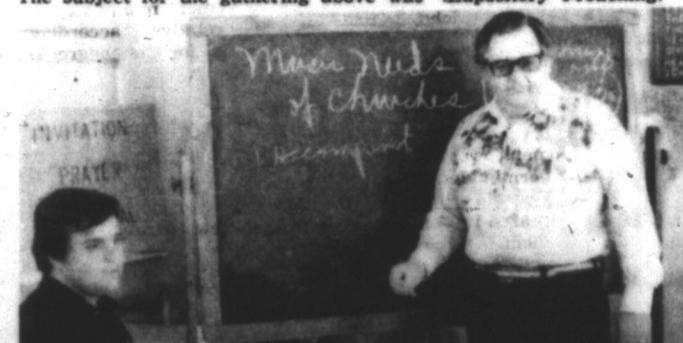
The Pastor's Retreat at Camp Zion in Myrtle registered some 112 for the 2½-day meeting. Rev. Leon Emery, above, who was the director of the retreat, makes announcements relative to its program. Rev. Emery is consultant in church administration for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, addressed the Baptist Pastors' Retreat at Camp Zion.



Rev. Kermit McGregor, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, led special interest conferences on preaching during the retreat. The subject for the gathering above was 'Expository Preaching.'



Dan Hall, standing, and Rev. Dennis Johnsey, seated, led a conference on "Planning for an Effective Worship Experience" during the Pastors' Retreat. Hall is director of the Department of Church Music for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Rev. Johnsey is pastor of Mantee Baptist Church.

## Former Mississippians Named To Southern Faculty Post

(Continued from page 1) position of dean in the School of Religious Education, a post he held from 1955-69. Since 1973 Graves had led in the development of the Boyce Bible School at Southern Seminary, a program of theological education for non-college graduates.

Graves succeeds Ralph C. Atkinson Jr., dean of the school of religious education since 1973, who resigned, effective July 31. He will accept an administrative post at another Baptist institution which will be announced in the near future.

Five new faculty members were elected during the April trustee meeting.

Richard Cunningham, associate professor of systematic theology and philosophy of religion at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., was elected associate professor of Christian philosophy with tenure. The Baylor University and Southern Seminary graduate has been on the faculty of the California seminary since 1967.

Water B. Shurden, occupant of the Chair of Southern Baptist Studies at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., has been elected associate professor of church history with tenure. Shurden is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, and has taught at Carson-Newman since 1969.

Jame Blevins, professor of religion since 1969 at Mars Hill (N.C.) College, is a new associate professor with tenure of New Testament interpretation. Blevins holds degrees from Duke and Eastern Universities and Southern Seminary.

Glenn A. Stassen, professor of religion at Berea College, Berea, Ky., was elected to an associate with tenure. Stassen is a graduate of University of Virginia, Union Theological Seminary and Duke University, and is the son of well-known political figure Harold Stassen.

A. Jackie Glaze, past president of the International Baptist Seminary, Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 1966-75 as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary, has accepted a post as associate professor Old Testament interpretation. Glaze, a graduate of Millsaps College, Jackson, Miss., Mississippi College, and Southern Seminary, been a visiting

professor on the Louisville campus throughout this academic year.

Other trustee action included the selection of E. Glenn Hinson, professor of church history, to occupy the endowed David T. Potter Chair of Church History. Hinson succeeds Morgan Patterson, who will become academic dean at Golden Gate Baptist Seminary this fall.

Additional trustee action on faculty involved granting tenure to Lewis Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism, and promotion of Hugh T. McElrath to full professor in the School of Church Music, Larry L. McSwain to associate professor of church and community, and Paul D. Simmons to associate professor of Christian ethics.

The trustees voted to honor Clara A. McCullough, administrative assistant to seminary president Duke K. McCall, for her 24 years of service to the seminary. McCullough will retire July 31.

New trustee officers elected include Richard M. Stephenson of Richmond, Va., re-elected chairman of the board; Albert Cardwell of Macon, Ga., elected first vice-chairman and chairman of the executive committee; Wayne Dehoney of Louisville, Ky., elected second vice-chairman; and Joe D. Cross of Louisville, Ky., elected secretary.

## Board Announces New Career Guidance Section

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday School Board has announced establishment of a new career guidance section in response to widespread demands for more aid to pastors and other church staff members.

The new section, implemented "to intensify the board's ongoing work in this area," reflects one of the board's major corporate priorities said board President Grady C. Cothen.

The development of the section by the board's trustees was prompted by requests from a multitude of church and denominational spokesmen.

The section's "mission and ministry is to pastors and other church staff members and their families," said Bob Dale, section supervisor in the board's church administration department.

"We will minister to them throughout their entire ministry career so that they may gain greater effectiveness and fulfillment in their work," he said.

In essence, the section will be involved in four areas of work which have experienced minimum attention by the SBC in the past. These involve guidance and assistance, assessment and counseling, vocational support, and resource development for church vocations workers.

According to Dale, the plan of support includes discovering those persons filling each of the positions involved they could be appointed before the meeting.

"There is no way the importance of this workshop can be over emphasized," Vaughn declared. "The advance of the work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention depends to a very great extent on the work of the associations, and the attendance of each of the persons on these leadership teams at this meeting will make the work of the associations a great deal more effective in my opinion," he added.

The fourth purpose of the section is to provide a ministry research service designed to secure and compile research data regarding various aspects of ministry.

## Associational Planning Workshop

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## EDITORIAL

### Election Of A New SBC President

Every two years the Southern Baptist Convention elects a new president. The constitution of the organization stipulates that no man can succeed himself more than once, without an intervening period. The last man to hold three terms was Dr. Robert G. Lee, although the custom early in the century had been for men to be chosen for three terms. By the 1930's, however, the two year concept developed, and it finally was made constitutional. Only one man in the last twenty-five years has not been re-elected for a second term, and that was Dr. K. O. White, who for health reasons, declined the nomination for a second term.

The presidency of the nation's largest evangelical denomination, is a position with little actual power. The main responsibility is presiding at the annual sessions. The president appoints (in consultation with the vice-presidents) the Committee on Committees, the Resolutions Committee and the Credentials Committee. He also is a member of the Executive Committee of the convention. He has no authority over any board or agency or over any committee of the convention. However, besides the demands listed above, the president usually is looked upon as a spiritual leader of the convention, and his term of office is filled with speaking engagements, meetings, and other activities related to the convention and its program. The position is one of responsibility with very little authority, but is one of honor and prestige.

Individuals do not "run" for the office of president of the convention. Unlike the races which we see in national politics, Southern Baptists frown upon any effort to reach the high offices it has to bestow. The general attitude among them is that this is an office which should seek the man, and not one which men should seek. Indeed, when it appears that a man is seeking the office, or that his friends are pushing for his election, that usually means sure defeat for him. Southern Baptists prefer to look for and make their own choice in the matter, and usually the person who

is elected is a person who has won the respect and appreciation of the rank and file of the convention by outstanding leadership and service in his own church, and in denominational life.

Despite this, each time an election approaches one begins to hear rumors as to men who may be nominated for the position. Names usually are not mentioned in the state papers, but in meetings, and where preachers or denominational leaders may get together, some names will begin to surface. This year is no different. Several names have been mentioned, including a number of pastors and a former denominational executive. Among the pastors are the present president of the Pastor's Conference, two former Pastor's Conference presidents, and some others. The convention elects a layman every few years, but we have heard no such names this year, and it is doubtful if there will be one at this time, since Mississippi layman, Owen Cooper, completed his term only two years ago.

Sometimes it has been said that the election to the presidency of the Pastor's Conference is a step toward the SBC presidency. This is not necessarily so, even though six of the last fourteen presidents first served as president of the conference. However, none moved to the higher office directly from the first. Moreover, only 3 out of the last 21 presidents of the conference have reached the SBC position. It is probable that the election to the conference office simply means that a man has reached a place of recognition by his peers, and that same recognition may bring selection by the convention.

The constitution does not set forth qualifications for its president but consideration of those who have held the office reveals that usually the man is pastor of one of the convention's larger churches, which supports the convention program through the Cooperative Program and special offerings. The man usually is graduate of one of our institutions, is well known as an outstanding preacher and pastor, and for his loyalty to the convention.

While no theological tests are set

for men holding the presidential office, almost every one elected in recent years could be classified in the middle of the stream of Southern Baptist conservatism. Some have been outspokenly conservative. It is probable that no preacher who had become known to be theologically liberal, ever could be elected. We remember a time years ago when a widely known Southern Baptist pastor was featured on the front page of Time magazine, in connection with the Baptist World Alliance, but the statement was made in the story that he never could be elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, of which his church was a member. Whether justified or not, he had been classified as more liberal than Southern Baptists like, and the newsmagazine was correct. The convention is not quite as demanding of its laymen as far as the theological stance is concerned, but no openly liberal preacher need ever hope to be president.

This year, for the first time, there is a possibility that the incumbent president of the Pastor's Conference could be elected, if he allows his name to be placed in nomination. His church is one of the largest in the convention, and gives full support to the convention program. He, himself, is outspokenly conservative, and is widely used across the convention as a speaker in conventions, conferences, and revivals. The former executive, also is theologically conservative, and before holding his denominational position, pastored some of the convention's strong churches. He is widely known for his denominational leadership, and for his writing and speaking.

Other equally outstanding men also are being mentioned, and no one can predict what will happen, when the nominating is done and the balloting begins. We are confident that Southern Baptists will choose the man they want, whether it is one of these, or someone else whose name has not even been mentioned. The convention has been choosing presidents for 130 years, and a look at history reveals that it always chooses good men. We are sure that it will do that again.

#### THE END TIMES NEW TESTAMENT

by David Wilkerson (Chosen - Revell, 300 pp. paper, \$3.95)

An edition of the Living New Testament with every prophetic reference to future things printed in green. The editor is David Wilkerson, widely known for his The Cross and the Switchblade and his work with youth.

#### LEADING DYNAMIC BIBLE STUDY

by Rice A. Pierce (Broadman, 128 pp. paper, \$2.50)

Step-by-step helps for leading groups in study of the Bible. The author is an editor of Bible teaching materials for the Sunday school board. This will be a practical handbook for every person who has to teach or wants to learn to teach effectively.

#### CHRISTIAN MISSION IN THE MODERN WORLD

by John R. W. Stott (Intervarsity, paper, \$2.95)

An English Bible teacher and writer speaks on "What the Church should be doing now!" These are the 1975 Chavasse Lectures at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. Subjects are Mission, Evangelism, Dialogue, Salvation and Conversion.

#### 1,000 STORIES AND QUOTATIONS OF FAMOUS PEOPLE

Compiled by Wayne E. Warner (Baker, paper, 362 pp. \$4.95.) Famous people speak on many subjects. Rich in content. Well indexed.

#### MAN IN ADAM AND IN CHRIST

by Arthur C. Custance (Zondervan, 349 pp. \$8.95)

Volume III of a series in which sixty theological studies, called The Doorway Papers are to be published. What is wrong with man? How was man created in the image of God? What is the meaning of "lost"? The forgiveness of sin; the plan of salvation. How does one become a child of God? All of these are studied theologically and philosophically.

#### THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE ON EARTH

— Demos Shakur as told to John and Elizabeth Sherrill (Chosen-Revell, 187 pp., \$6.95)

The story of the founder of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship. Tells of the coming from Armenia of a Christian group, including the grandfather and grandmother of this man who now is leader of one of the most active charismatic groups.

#### WHEN GOD SAYS YOU'RE O. K.

by Hal Lindsey and others (Creation House, pocketbook paper, 96 pp., \$1.45)

Six prophetic scholars discuss the coming of Christ, and the place of the "rapture" in the Second Coming. Will it be before, during or after the "tribulation?" Several views are presented. This is a book for those who are thoroughly familiar with the Bible teaching concerning the Lord's return. It probably will be confusing to those just being introduced to the doctrine. The book does include a listing of and description of some of the many books now appearing on prophecy.

#### BAREFOOT DAYS OF THE SOUL

by Maxie Dunnam (Word, 132 pp., \$4.95)

Messages on the Christian experience and Christian living by a United Methodist minister who grew up in Mississippi and pastored in this state. The messages are personal in their application, poetic in their beauty, and rich in illustration.

#### GOD IS EVERYWHERE

selected by Harold Whatley (Hallmark Crown Editions, 16 pp., \$5.95)

Thirty-four poems and 17 famous quotes are accompanied by thirty related photographic illustrations (10 color and 14 black and white), all inspiring writings that reveal God's nearness and love. These writings could be used in devotional talks, sermons, or to put a plus in private devotions and meditations.

**YOU'VE GOT CHARISMA!** by Lloyd John Ogilvie (Abingdon, 175 pp., \$6.95) The pastor of the Hollywood (Calif.) Presbyterian Church, discusses in popular sermon type messages what the fullness and richness which can come to the Christian life when the Holy Spirit is allowed to come into the life in all His fullness. This is discussion of the Charismatic movement in a new dimension, revealing that there is power and victory in living and witnessing, without some of the extremes claimed by some today.

**SALVATION BY SURPRISE** by Earl F. Palmer (Word, 196 pp., \$5.95) Studies in the book of Romans. Not a commen-

"WITHOUT WISE LEADERSHIP, A NATION  
IS IN TROUBLE; BUT WITH GOOD  
COUNSELORS THERE IS SAFETY."  
— PROV. 11:14 (L.B.)



### THIS CRUCIAL ELECTION YEAR

#### THE BAPTIST FORUM

##### Church In Germany

##### Seeking Pastor

Dear Mr. Odie,

I would like to introduce myself as John Marshall, Chairman of the Pulpit Committee of Grace Baptist Church (English Language), Heidelberg, Germany.

My intent in writing is to provide information regarding our pastorate and to request your assistance in "getting the word out" to ministers about a possible place of service for them.

Grace Baptist Church (English language); Heidelberg, Germany needs SBC pastor; opening will exist 15 July 1976. Interested individuals should contact Mr. John N. Marshall, Logistic Assistance Office - Europe APO New York 06403.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

John N. Marshall  
Chairman

#### Bicentennial Feature

##### John Hart-Baptist

##### Patriot Retires

HOPEWELL, N. J., Dec. 1776 (BP)—Baptist John Hart, the farmer and legislator who signed the Declaration of Independence, retired from public life here due to ill health.

A champion of religious freedom and individual rights, Hart signed the Declaration knowing it might cost his life and fortune. But he could not foresee the price he would pay for patriotism.

Before the war Hart owned a valuable farm and interest in a number of mills. His property was in the path of the armies, and during the fighting his crops were consumed, his stock driven away and his farm and mills laid waste.

Hart's large family was scattered and the legislator was hunted as a traitor by royal troops. For weeks during the war he was a fugitive in the Sourland Mountains, hunted from house to house, spending the nights wherever he could find shelter, and even sleeping with farm animals.

His wife's health broke under the strain of war and Hart was forced to flee to escape capture. She died during his absence.

Hart had earlier given the land on which the Hopewell Baptist Church was built and he and his family worshipped there regularly.

He served in the New Jersey Assembly 10 years where he militantly defended popular rights. Hart opposed the Stamp Act, favored an address to the king which declared that the right to tax resided with the colonies, and led the opposition against providing for royal troops.

He was elected to the Continental Congress on June 22, 1776, and at age 65 signed the Declaration of Independence on Aug. 2, 1776. That same year he was elected vice-president of the New Jersey Congress and was unanimously selected as speaker of the first assembly under the new constitution of New Jersey.

John Sherman Cooper, U.S. Senator (Ky.): "More and more I believe that our greatest influence in the world would be an example of justice and morality in our own country."

Marjorie Holmes, author: "The man or woman who treasures his friends is usually solid gold himself."

#### The Baptist Record

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Don McGregor Associate Editor

Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate

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THE GIFT OF WHOLENESS by Hal L. Edwards (Word, 172 pp., \$5.95) A spiritual "autobiography" of a Methodist preacher, who moved through numerous stages of spiritual experiences before finding "identity" and the meaning of fullness of life. A fascinating, fast moving story of spiritual struggles and baffling places in the spiritual pilgrimage.

# Children's Village Provides Home, Faith, Basis For Life

By Janie Thomas

Hello. My name is Janie Thomas and I'd like to introduce you to a friend of mine. His name is Jesus. Through the good, the bad and the happy and the sad, He was always there.

On Aug. 5, 1945, the doctor pronounced me a normal, healthy, baby girl. Two months later, deserted by a very young teen-age mother, I was left in the hands of an aging grandmother and alcoholic father, who traveled several states playing in a band. The real responsibility of raising myself and my sister, who was three years older than I, fell to our aging grandmother. She was a fine Christian lady and she took the responsibility with zest. Half the time we were hungry and clothesless, but we knew we were loved.

When I was 4, our beloved grandmother had a stroke which left her paralyzed. Then the burden of raising us shifted from relative to relative,

who already had more responsibilities of their own than they could bear. When I was 6, our father resumed his role. We went to live in Canton. We were placed in a boardinghouse and our father resumed his normal activities, popping in to check on us every three or four months. Had it not been for the dear, sweet, little lady who ran the boardinghouse, I daresay, we would have starved.

One day in our wanderings through the streets of Canton, a truant officer asked us why we were not in school. We did not know what school was, let alone, that we should be in it. He promptly began checking into our situation and we were turned over to the Welfare Department.

At the age of 7, my sister and I were placed in a foster home in Conehatta. This was our home for the next two years. Then our foster parents told us that we were going to live at the Baptist Orphanage

in Jackson.

The big day arrived, and the only thing I can remember is that I was scared and my sister was crying. Years later as I look back on that small, frightened girl, I realize that it was the luckiest day of my life.

As I began life at the orphanage, school became very important to me. I began to develop a love for reading. With the help of some dedicated teachers and my own desire to learn, I was able to skip several grade levels, and within a few years I was soon on my proper grade level for my age. I think it was at this period in my life that I began dreaming of going to college and one day becoming a teacher.

At the age of 12, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Not only was I growing mentally and physically but spiritually as well. Jesus became a real and true friend.

At the age of 13, my long-

lost mother appeared and wanted my sister and me to come and live with her in Pensacola, Fla. She had remarried and was doing quite well. We spent that summer with her, and at the end of the summer, with my mother's urging, my sister chose to stay, but I didn't. You see, I had this dream, and I knew if I stayed it would never come true. I can remember returning to the orphanage, once again, scared and alone, but this time I knew I had a friend who was closer than a brother or a sister.

When I was in the 10th grade, all of the kids at the orphanage received a gift from Hollandale. Mr. Paul N. Nunnery, the new superintendent. I can think of no other person, over the years, who has had a more dramatic effect on my life. The first thing he did was to change the name of the Baptist Orphanage to the Baptist Children's Village, because really there were only seven or eight true orphans, the rest were products of broken homes, such as I was.

With Mr. Nunnery began a long series of changes. Lifting the social stigma attached to the Baptist Orphanage, he opened the way for young, healthy lives to emerge.

I graduated from Central High School in 1963. In 1967, with the help of the Village, I graduated from Mississippi College, fulfilling my life long dream of becoming a teacher. I married a very fine man, and today we live in Leland and serve the Lord at the First Baptist Church.

Every year that I've taught school, I've been able to look across a sea of eager, young faces, and with much love in my eyes, say, "As long as you have God in your heart and a dream as big as a whole, wide world, you can be anything you want to be. For God makes a way where there is no way."

Doesn't our wonderful God

move in strange and mysterious ways! So the next opportunity you have to give, remember that in giving we are actually sharing God's Love with others. We can't out give Him, and truly the blessing lies in the giving and not the receiving.

The man who started it nineteen centuries ago said it so aptly, "Inasmuch as ye have done it to the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

The most important thing we can ever do in this life is to share this Jesus, my Friend.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Mrs. Robert D. (Janie) Thomas of 100 Lilac Drive in Leland is a school teacher who is presently devoting her time to her home and two small children. The Thomases are active in the First Baptist Church of Leland.

Reprinted from The Delta Democrat.

## SCRAPBOOK

### Mending

A basket and scissors, a needle and thread,  
Some patches and buttons, and mending begins.  
A pile of "still usables" — worn, torn, and outgrown—  
I'd throw most away, but they're almost like friends.  
The holes in these socks—  
In the heels and the toe—  
Remind me how fast  
Kids' feet go as they grow.  
And this dress—can it be—  
That she's gotten so tall,  
To need two more full inches—  
And just since last fall?  
My, oh, my, Son!  
I know knees have no chance,  
But how did you lose  
The seat out of these pants?  
And two buttons missing  
Off your new blue shirt, Honey?  
Yup! And the same ole ones—  
Right over your tummy.  
Ah, finished at last!  
Oh, No—Not quite yet—  
There's the doll with one arm  
And that broken train set.

Then there's always  
That harder mending I do  
On the wears an' tears, and the growth in the lives  
That need my attention, too.

### Substantial Continuity

Today as I hardly dare caress the petals  
Of the red rose I wear, lest they fall,  
My mother, 87, throws a large ball  
And my toddling grandson runs joyously  
To play the game.  
Introspective, I recline upon our country steps,  
And it seems to me the universal mother's yearning  
Has been the same  
In all the fragile years.  
A mother wants the message of salvation  
To flow forever in inherent purity,  
To assure the heart of youth eternal security.  
Jesus left us promises,  
Written in the Bible on tables of stone,  
Witnessed in His Blood, that in life or death,  
He'll never, no never, leave us alone.  
The baby's feathered ball bounces my way,  
And suddenly there are four generations at play.  
—Violet Tackett

These tasks I begin on bended knee,  
With head that's bowed down low.  
I lift my hands to the Lord above  
And ask for His help as I now.

Lord, give me a Basket of Wisdom,  
Equipped with Thy mending tools—  
With every shade of the Threads of Love  
Bound tightly 'round Faith as their spools.

Give me the Needles of Care and Concern,  
And a Cushion of Grime for my Pins.  
Now with pins and needles, and basket an' thread—  
My other mending begins.  
Lots an' lots of the Thread of Love  
Can darn up a broken heart,  
But I'll need the Scissors of Hope an' Realism  
To give shattered dreams a new start—  
The Patches of Tolerance and Strength—  
For feelin' hurt by a jolt—  
And Yards an' Yards of Encouragement  
And Understanding by the Bolt.

Throw in the Buttons of Courage and Song  
To hold worries and fears inside.  
Then help me to use the Tape Measure of Grace  
And not just the rule as my guide.

Now, take my hand in Your hand, Lord  
And make clear each task that I do:  
So that my life — and the lives in my care—  
Might be totally patterned by YOU.

—Mary Rosalind Healy Bradley

### Mother's Bouquet

Red roses for memories these words convey  
From a garden of love a mother's bouquet

Mother of mine, God's gift from above,  
To look to, to lean on, to laugh with, to love

Tired and weary shoulders now hug a purple knitted shawl  
How gently time is erased when Mother's voice comforts all

Mothers are a living, loving source of power  
Infusing life, bringing seed to flower

—Eva B. Tyrone (to Mrs. Anna Stamps)

### Key To Victory

The greatest victories I ever won  
Were not won with sword or shield.  
They were won alone in a quiet place  
As in prayer, humbly, I kneeled.

—Dexter Truesdale



### Mother's Day — USA

An American mother and her child embrace each other in a moment of contentment and love. (RNS Photo by Bob Taylor)

### Growing Big

If you can take a little thought  
To help a soul in need, write  
someone a friendly note, or do  
a kindly deed  
Well that will help your little  
thought grow big

If you can take a little child  
Give it drink and food  
Love it and teach it to be good  
Then you have helped a little soul  
grow big

If you can take a little seed  
Plant, feed, and water it to help  
it grow  
Then you have seen God's bigness  
In your garden here below  
If you can take some scraps of  
cloth and make a bedsize cover  
Or take a shattered life and piece  
it back together  
Then you have made your own life big

—Evelyn Rohr, age 72

# Jackson County Baptists Join Battle Against Illiteracy

By Linda Skupien

"Every day I go home and on the way into my house I pick up my newspaper. I sit down inside

and open up my paper. My children don't know I can't read."

Joe (not his real name) is one of thousands of adult Americans facing a complex society without basic reading and writing skills.

leadership of Mrs. Fran Vandercook, associational Women's Misionary Union director. But don't expect students to just come forward and say "I can't read," Mrs.

about adult learning characteristics to other languages.

The Laubach method now reaches people worldwide with lessons in 313 languages repre-

sent from you or that smells a little different from you, then you can't be in this ministry."

Volunteers have also found sacrifices are necessary. It takes time to train and to measure in-





## First, Oxford Dedicates New Organ

The culmination of an organ fund started in December, 1972 was realized Sunday afternoon, May 2, when a 28-rank pipe organ was officially dedicated at First Church, Oxford.

Samuel Porter, church organist and assistant professor of organ and head of the organ department at Ole Miss, was the recitalist for the 4 p.m. program.

Consisting of 1,800 pipes of varying sizes and materials, the organ was built at a cost of \$70,000 by the Wicks Pipe Organ Co. of Highland, Ill. The tonal design of the instrument evolved from the planning of Wicks representative Robert Capra, Jr., Samuel Porter and the music committee of the church under the leadership of Dr. Hugh Bate man, chairman.

The pipes are placed in 28 ranks controlled by three keyboards and a pedal board. The choir and swell manuals are under expression (enclosed in chambers on each side of the baptistry with on each side of the choir left) while the entire great is exposed. The sixteen foot pedal principal pipes are located on each side of the baptistry with the remaining pedal pipes in the swell chamber, located to the left of the choir loft.

Wind for the organ is generated by a large electric blower and is fed through various conduits into the many cleats upon which the pipes stand. The action is direct electric and voicing is open tone.

## Memorial Day At Roundaway

Roundaway Church will observe Memorial Day on May 9. John N. Lee, a former pastor, from Jackson, will bring the memorial message at 11 a.m. Dinner will be spread following this message.

Frank and Linda Madden of New Albany will bring special music. At 1:30 p.m. there will be singing; congregational, solos, and groups. Tommy Campbell, soloist of Ruleville will sing.

A short memorial service led by Mrs. J. W. Gibson and an offering for the care of the cemetery will conclude the program.



## We Are Responsible For Today

By Rob Sugg, Pastor, Fellowship, Bellefontaine

Ezekiel 14:12-13

In this our bicentennial year, the urge is greater than ever to look at our heritage. We are reminded at every turn of the great leadership of our founding fathers. We are told of their visions, of their sacrifices, and of their work. And we see around us the results of all of these.

This is also a time for stressing beginnings in the Baptist denomination. There are many men we refer to as "giants in the faith" who laid the foundation for the Southern Baptist Convention as we know it today. Their lives are an inspiration to us as we face these troubled days. Many of their thoughts and teachings are still presented in our churches. We have had a great beginning and God has richly blessed us through the years.

This was exactly the trap into which Israel had fallen. They were the chosen people of God. God had established the nation. God has led them out of captivity in Egypt into a land of their very own. God had given them a land of milk and honey, a land of great material blessings. God had given them great leaders, both political and spiritual. Nothing could harm them. Not even God would destroy what must have been the "apple of his eye."

But God said, If I lift up my hand against a nation, even those great leaders of the past would only be able to save themselves. They would not even be able to save their own children.

Many agree that the hand of God is raised over America today either to bless or to curse. The important thing is that we understand we cannot rely on what has gone before. We are responsible to God for today.

## Revival Dates

**Oak Grove (Amite): May 14, 15, 16; Rev. Leo Humphrey, New Orleans, La., evangelist; Rev. Donald Hintze, pastor; services at 7:45 p.m. weekdays; regular hours on Sunday.**

**Jeff Davis Association Area-wide — "Christ's Freedom Cru-**

sade; May 30 - June 4; High School Football Stadium, Prentiss; Rev. Sam H. Jones, pastor, Glenview Church, Fort Worth, Texas, evangelist; Rev. Mike Jones, pastor, Harleton Church, Harleton, Texas, music evangelist; Combined Crusade Choir; services nightly, 7:30 p.m. Rev. L. B. Atchison, Director of Missions, Publicity Chairman.

**Hinesley McGee Thrash Wedgeworth Christian**

**Volunteer Activist Awards Are Given**

Germaine Monteil Cosmetique Corporation, the National Center for Voluntary Action, and McRae's Department Stores are saluting ten exceptional people from across Mississippi as Volunteer Activists for 1976, in recognition of outstanding volunteer service. Formerly called Beautiful Activist, this event has been renamed and includes men as well as women. Awards were presented in Jackson April 23-25 during the Arts Festival to Marianne Brown, Hattiesburg; Mrs. E. M. Chappell, Jackson; Mrs. Wayne Christian, Lucedale; Mrs. Lyn Cook, Starkville; Mrs. Howard E. Hinesley, Brookhaven; H. D. McGee, Fulton; Mrs. Fred B. Smith, Ripley; H. M. Thompson, Jackson; Mrs. Curtis E. Thrash, Ocean Springs; and Mrs. Hilman Wedgeworth, Laurel. Five of these (pictured above) are Baptists.

**Hinesley McGee Thrash Wedgeworth Christian**

**Montgomery To Have Old-Fashioned Day**

Montgomery Church (Lincoln) is having an Old-Fashioned Day combined with Bicentennial program on May 16. Dinner will be served on the ground and a special offering taken for the cemetery fund. Afternoon services will include singing and testimonies. Rev. Fred L. Bollan, Jr. is pastor.

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